

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
CITY OF MONTICELLO  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

The meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held on Monday, September 21, 2009, at 6:25 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Thompson and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call, by Clerk Treasurer Liz Oilar, was answered by Mayor Jason Thompson, Council Members Dave Kelly, Jim Mann, Grace Oilar, Bill Smith, and Eric Storm, and City Attorney George Loy.

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, a motion was made by Council Member Grace Oilar, seconded by Council Member Jim Mann, to approve the minutes as presented. Four ayes, one abstained, motion carried.

There is an addition to the agenda: Wellhead Protection – Water Department

**Citizens Participation**

1. Centennial Celebration – Enter the Garden Club – Sandy Taylor

Enter the Garden Club is in charge of the Centennial Celebration for the month of October. Their event, "Walk Toward the Future", will be on Sunday, October 11, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in downtown Monticello. There will be a quilt show at the Courthouse, an auto show, singing groups Twin Lakes Jazz Band and The Sound Waves, Carriage Rides, and a Trolley Tour. There will be building tours and open houses all downtown.

2. Merle Pherson expressed his concern to the Council about the sewer odor at his house. He believes rates were increased years ago to build a reserve to fix the sewer problems in this area. He wanted to know when this problem is going to be fixed. They pay taxes for it with no benefits. Mayor Thompson stated that the City has been working on this issue with the CSO plan. We are now under order from the Attorney General to move forward with our CSO plan. This will cost the City between 14 to 20 million dollars and we have to have it done in 20 years. The CSO's in Merle's area are specifically one of the things to address. Wastewater Superintendent Joe Mowrer stated that the increase in rates was for the expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mayor Thompson stated that as soon as IDEM approves the CSO plan then the City can move forward on these projects that need to be addressed.

**Department Head Reports**

Wastewater Superintendent Joe Mowrer brought a sample of the relining material used to reline North Main Street. They also have completed Lake Street. He would like to do this just like the sidewalk program and do a few blocks each year. He has been very impressed with Insituform. He has gotten several calls about the sewer odor at the south end of the City. He is hoping it rains to help this problem.

Water Superintendent Rod Pool stated that everything is pretty normal at his department. He believes they will have almost all of the water lines on Sixth Street, from Jordan's to 24, completed this week. He has been working on the wellhead protection plan.

Parks Superintendent Mitch Billue stated that he has been busy with Jordan Park. Volunteers from the Methodist Church painted pylons in the park. They did a great job. He would like to thank them. Wastewater Superintendent Joe Mowrer and Street Superintendent Doug Roberts helped cut down trees and remove stumps at Jordan Park. Ground breaking for Jordan Park will be Friday, September 25, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Fire Chief Shane Swaim stated that it is business as usual at his department. He has been working on end of the year budget issues. Board of Works Member Mike Kever asked how the Fire Department renovation grant is coming along. Chief Swaim stated that we should get a letter at the end of the year and has received a letter of support from Senator Lugar.

Police Chief Curt Blount stated that his department has been busy the last few weeks. There have been lots of petty thief's. He believes this is a sign of the times and the economy. He is also working with KIRPC on a grant for automatic external defibrillators. This will help them and the Fire Department. He should know something on that at the end of the year.

Street Superintendent Doug Roberts stated that they spent 7½ days grinding sidewalks in 150 different places. They are planning to remove six different portions of exposed aggregate. One tree will need to come down. They are done with sidewalks, but plan to do three or five more. Leaf pickup will start mid October. New signals, lights, and crossing arms are going up at the railroad crossings on Main Street and Illinois Street through INDOT and TP&W.

#### **Public Hearing – 2010 Budget**

City Attorney George Loy opened the public hearing for the 2010 Budget. This is a required public hearing prior to the first reading of Ordinance 2009-21 regarding the budget. Mayor Thompson expressed his concern for the budget. He would like to see a flatline / decreased budget. He does not feel this is a good time to hire personnel and increase the budget. Council Member Eric Storm stated his support for needed part time help and items for the Parks Department. He doesn't believe these are all permanent increases. Mayor Thompson stated that the tax rate for the 2010 Budget was \$1.45. Clerk Treasurer, Liz Oilar, explained that this is only an estimate, and the tax rate has to be advertised high in order to get our maximum levy. Tax rates published and adopted by the City are parameters only. The final tax rate will be determined once the Assessed Value is known by the County. The tax rate should be in line with the current rate, which is \$1.0398. Council President Jim Mann stated that one of the things discussed a lot in the budget meetings was enabling the departments to function with technology in a better way. He believes this budget reflects that and the Council has been very conservative overall on the entire City view of expense. Mayor Thompson once again voiced his concern for the 2010 Budget. After further discussion, Mayor Thompson asked for any other input regarding the public hearing. He then closed the public hearing for the 2010 Budget.

#### **Discussion of Grant Opportunities White County Community Foundation Offers for Cities and Towns – Leslie Goss**

Leslie Goss was not in attendance for the meeting.

**Consideration of Speed Limit Change South Sixth Street from 35 mph to 25 mph**

Police Chief Curt Blount stated that Deichman Construction came to them a week or so ago with the concern of the speed of the traffic on South Sixth Street. The Police Department has been down there handing out warnings and tickets. This is not slowing them down. Chief Blount has spoken with Street Superintendent Doug Roberts, Chris Dowdty, American Structurepoint, and Deichman and they have all agreed to come back to the Council and ask to reduce the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph. This is a safety concern for the construction workers. Council Member Grace Oilar made the motion to grant permission to change the South Sixth Street speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph, seconded by Council Member Bill Smith. All ayes, motion carried.

**First Reading Ordinance 2009-21: 2010 Budget**

City Attorney George Loy stated that this is the first reading by title only of Ordinance 2009-21: Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates for the 2010 Budget. The second reading will be on Monday, October 19, 2009. Council Member Jim Mann made the motion to pass Ordinance 2009-21 to second reading, seconded by Council Member Dave Kelly.

**Wellhead Protection – Water Department**

Tim Northam, Peerless Midwest, addressed the Council with the wellhead protection plan. This plan requires a mandatory public meeting to discuss possible situations that may come about that the Water Department needs to handle in case of possible contamination of the well field. Tim will meet with the Fire Department, EMA, Board of Health, and any other first responders. This plan has to be updated every 5 years. It will be submitted to IDEM on or before October 6, 2010.

**Accounts Payable**

Council Member Grace Oilar made the motion to approve the Accounts Payable as presented, seconded by Council Member Jim Mann. All ayes, motion carried.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Liz Oilar  
Clerk Treasurer